New concession rules for senior citizens

1649. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new rules have been introduced *w.e.f.* 7th July, 2003 for concession to Senior Citizens in Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this rule will restrict the air travels by the Senior Citizens for some pre-arranged tourist purposes only and not for any emergencies; and

(d) if so, whether Government will consider withdrawal for the new rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The rules pertaining to Senior Citizens Concession were modified with effect from 7th July, 2003 as under:

Conditions after modifications

(i) Concession for Indian national residing in India.

(ii) For Round trip and circle trip travel only.

(iii) Minimum stay for seven days at destination.

(iv) Rerouting not to be permitted.

(v) Confirmed ticket to be purchased at least seven days prior to departure.

(c) The rule have been modified to ensure that there is no dilution of revenue due to misuse of this concession for business travel.

(d) No proposal to withdraw the revised rules is under consideration.

Restoration of air links with Pakistan

1650. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has sought an agreement with India to prevent any unilateral banning of overflights in future by either country;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has suggested a meeting of civil aviation officials of the two countries to ensure that one party would not be able to withdraw the overflight rights of the others;

(c) whether Pakistan had offered to restore only flight connections between the two countries and not overflights; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):

(a) to (d) Pakistan has suggested that bilateral civil aviation issues could be discussed at technical level between the civil aviation authorities of the two sides. These discussions are slated to be held on August, 27-28,2003.The issues of direct air services, overflights, and the specific dates of resumption of civil aviation links on reciprocal basis would be discussed during the meeting.

Losses due to Pilots' Strike

1651. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilots suspended/dismissed due to their refusal to take flight towards the countries where cases of SARS have been reported;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have restored the services of all those pilots;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by Government due to the refusal of the pilots alongwith the loss suffered due to hike in the prices of air turbine fuel; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government for making up the loss alongwith the outcome thereof?

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.